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TEACHING ARTISTS



Local teaching artists have been selected to work in a variety of programming presented by The Smith Center including Southern Nevada Wolf Trap Early Learning Through the Arts, Disney Musicals in Schools, and performances and residencies in schools and community centers. These artists have professional experience in dance, theater, vocal music, instrumental music, and storytelling. Our teaching artists are also available for performances and residencies in schools and community centers designed to meet educational goals.

EARLY LEARNING THROUGH THE ARTS

Steve Clark

Steve Clark is a percussion professional with over 35 years of experience as a touring artist and instructor for both traditional and special needs students. He has delivered music workshops for intellectually and developmentally disabled adults, parents and teachers of homeschooled pre-K students in collaboration with The International House of Blues Foundation. Steve has recorded over 100 released songs and has performed on stages around the world. He founded Junior Drummer Music Education and authored The Junior Drummer Kit. Steve is affiliated with the Percussive Arts Society and the Vic Firth Private Drum Teacher Program. In 2000, he was inducted into the Rockabilly Hall of Fame.



Lisa Davis

Lisa Davis has enjoyed an eclectic career combining her passion in theater, children's education, and programming. She founded the Kentucky Fried Theatre, an improvisation troupe based in Los Angeles. Lisa went on to perform cabaret shows in Chicago, Palm Beach, Minneapolis, Miami and New York City at Lincoln Center. She became the first Director of Education and Family Programming at The National Cowgirl Museum in Fort Worth, Texas. Most recently, she served as Director of Education at The Magik Theatre in San Antonio, Texas.



Ms. China

Ms. China specializes in theater, spoken word, and African dance and drumming. She has written, directed and performed in fourteen original productions showcasing social, racial, and political issues of women. Ms. China co-founded programs with a focus on rites of passage for girls ages 10-22 and currently facilitates a young women's mentoring program. In addition, she is involved in the annual programming of the African American History Celebrations for the City of Las Vegas and the West Las Vegas Library Theater. In 2009, Ms. China received the Channel 13 Jefferson Award for performing great public service.



Karla Huntsman

Karla Huntsman is a drama specialist, actor, and storyteller with over 25 years of teaching experience at universities, high schools, junior high, and elementary schools across the country. She has presented seminars, workshops, in-services, and residencies at festivals, conferences, conventions and schools. Karla directed and acted on stage in Camelot, See How They Run, The Crucible, and 110 in the Shade. Her lively storytelling programs include singing, guitar, autoharp, djembe drum, washboard, and puppetry.



Ms. L.A.

L.A. is an accomplished percussionist, who has performed around the world with notables, such as Eubie Blake & Lenny Godfrey, Winton Marsalis, Dizzy Gillespie, Nick Ashford & Valerie Simpson. L.A. performed for Nelson Mandela at the United Nations World Summit, accompanied Maya Angelou, and performed as a solo act for Oprah's 50th birthday tribute. She currently serves as the musical director of the Austin Dancers Academy and has developed a musical percussion program for autistic youth and adults.



Kate St-Pierre

Kate St-Pierre is a versatile vocal performer known for her grunge-like belt, operatic tone, and ethnic phrasing. She sang in Cirque Du Soleil's Ka and is the original singer in Le Reve. Kate can be heard as featured vocal soloist with heavy metal band, Solace, and as guest soloist on works by Jon Anderson, Carvin Knowles, and film trailer composer Thomas J. Bergersen. Kate worked as Assistant Director of Education and Community Outreach Programs for The Los Angeles Opera, where she worked with 15 elementary schools to produce an opera at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion. Currently, she is a music instructor and licensed Music Together teacher.



Marcia Raquel Robinson

Marcia Raquel Robinson has a background in opera and dance. She performed in Treemonisha at the Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, Jubilee and Hallelujah Hollywood in Las Vegas, and performed with the world famous vocal group The Platters. Her passion is researching African culture and philosophy, and its influence and positive character building effects on African American youth. Marcia received her Masters of Fine Arts in Theater from the University of California, San Diego and a Doctorate of Education from the University of Nevada Las Vegas.



Shaquida Vergo

Shaquida Vergo is a California native and moved to Las Vegas to obtain her BA in Dance Production Management. She graduated from UNLV, Spring 2014, and is now a part-time instructor in the Dance Department. She also teaches at District Arts, is choreographer for Chaparral High School's musical theater program, is a yearly Assistant Stage Manager for Camp Broadway Las Vegas, and is an employee at The Smith Center. She has been training in dance since age eleven and is also a lighting, sound, video, and costume designer.



Marcus Weiss

Marcus Weiss has been a professional actor for more than 25 years working extensively in theater, film, television, radio, and voice-overs across the country and in Europe. Some of his favorite screen credits include Life Is Beautiful, The Trust, All My Children, 21, and Scrubs. Born in New York and raised in Switzerland, Marcus received a B.A. in Drama from Dartmouth College and an M.F.A. in Acting from Temple University. While working as an original cast member of Blue Man Group Las Vegas, Marcus simultaneously performed for the world-renowned improvisation and sketch comedy show, The Second City for over 7 years. He also received critical acclaim for his starring role in the Las Vegas premiere of Hedwig and The Angry Inch, winning a Best Actor nod from The Las Vegas Review-Journal. Marcus has taught improvisation for The Second City Training Center and countless classes and workshops in acting, movement, voice, and speech for students of all ages. When not onstage, Marcus is a Teaching Artist for The Smith Center for the Performing Arts' Disney Musicals in Schools and Southern Nevada Wolftrap programs, a core faculty member of the Las Vegas Performing Arts Initiative, and an Acting and Improvisation Instructor for The College of Southern Nevada. He portrayed a clown in Le Réve-The Dream at The Wynn and I currently a sub in O at The Bellagio. In between it all, Marcus enjoys juggling his family life, which includes his lovely wife, Anastasia and two nutty kids, Jacob and Lukas.



Patrick Worley

Patrick is an award-winning, multi-faceted guitarist. He spent a decade working in Nashville, sharing the stage and studio with some of the music industry's great artists and songwriters. Patrick holds a Bachelor's degree in music business and in guitar performance from Middle Tennessee State University, and an Master's from UNLV. He serves on the music faculty UNLV and Dixie State University in Utah.



DISNEY MUSICALS IN SCHOOLS

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Tracey Langran Corea

Tracey Langran Corea is a director, choreographer, and writer. She started dancing at the age of 8 and was choreographing and teaching by the age of 14. She went on to become the Associate Choreographer for the Broadway production and eight international companies of Elton John and Tim Rice's Aida as well as six international companies of The Who's Tommy. Other choreography and consulting credits include: The Bourbon Room at the Venetian Casino, Rock Legends, one of the newest show on Holland America Cruise Lines, Tournament of Kings at the Excalibur Casino, Chitty Chitty Bang Bang, The Drowsy Chaperone, The Buddy Holly Story, and Legally Blonde for Super Summer Theatre in Las Vegas. Tracey has taught at the University of Southern California and the Orange County High School of the Arts and has given master classes in the US and abroad. She is the creator and writer of Life After Life, a rock musical which has been accepted in the Festival of New American Musicals in LA, the NY Fringe Festival, and won second place in ANMT's Search for New American Musicals.



Katie Kern

Katie Kern is a Las Vegas native who grew up performing on the Las Vegas strip in Country Tonite as the child singer, clogger, and yodeler. She learned the art of ventriloquism and was one of the youngest ventriloquists to perform at the International Ventriloquist Convention. She recorded an original album and traveled the country opening for big name country artists like Martina McBride, The Dixie Chicks, George Jones, and Merle Haggard to name a few. Katie has toured the world performing with the BYU Young Ambassadors and as a guest entertainer and lead female vocalist in the production shows for Holland America and Princess Cruise Lines. She is a certified vocal instructor with the Institute of Vocal Advancement and owns her own vocal and performance studios in Las Vegas and prides herself on building balanced and healthy voices in students of all ages. She directed Annie Jr. and Mulan Jr. at Hollywood Kids Academy and is proud to currently be the musical theatre director for Ovation at Bunker Dance Center in Las Vegas!



Louisa Lawson Lemos

Louisa Lawson Lemos was born and raised in Northern California where she trained as a ballerina until the age of 18. She moved to Las Vegas to attend UNLV as a theatre major and dance minor. Louisa was cast in the original Las Vegas company of Mamma Mia! and throughout her career has enjoyed playing various roles; her favorites include Ophelia in Hamlet, Molly in The Unsinkable Molly Brown, Hedy LaRue in How to Succeed... Louisa directed and choreographed Wizard of Oz and Cinderella for the Las Vegas Shakespeare Company and choreographed [title of show] for the Arts Frontier Foundation. She has worked with Camp Broadway at the Smith Center as Director of Shining Stars as well as in Featured Player roles and is currently the Education Coordinator with The Smith Center's Education and Outreach Department.



Sarah Lowe

Sarah Lowe has been performing in television, commercials and stage shows since childhood. Some of her credits include the off-Broadway hit The Donkey Show, the premiere Las Vegas production of Mamma Mia and serving as dance captain for nine year with Jersey Boys. Sarah has also worked as a director/choreographer with Camp Broadway at The Smith Center.



Jay Nagle

Jay Nagle recently moved to Las Vegas from Chicago where he worked for the park district for 15 years teaching theater, dance and early childhood development. Prior to that Mr. Nagle ran and original Musical Theatre Company from 1990 to 2002. Jay's acting credits include National tours of Jesus Christ Superstar, Beauty and the Beast, N.Y.C. Lincoln Center Town Hall and Off-Broadway as well as off off Broadway. Currently Jay is senior programmer at Winchester Park and Cultural Center. He also works as a standardized acting patient at Touro University.



Kathy Ortiz

Kathy Ortiz has an extensive background in dance and theater. She graduated as Valedictorian with a BFA in Jazz Dance and Musical Theater from the University of the Arts in Philadelphia and went on to perform for Epcot Center, Princess Cruise Lines, The American Gladiators, The Atlantis Resort and Casino, and Les Folies Bergere at the Tropicana. Not only has Kathy performed in numerous local productions such as Hairspray, All Shook Up, West Side Story, and Peter Pan... she has also choreographed for local productions of Next to Normal and The Music Man. Currently, she is a Music Specialist and Musical Theater Director/Choreographer for Las Vegas Day School, an Assistant Stage Manager for Camp Broadway, and runs a nonprofit organization called Parts for the Arts which assists high needs schools in creating sustainable musical theater programs.



Rommel Parson

≡ MENU



MD. He began his dance career performing at King's Dominion in Richmond, VA and King's Island in Cincinnati, OH. He moved on to Orlando, FL, dancing at Walt Disney World's EPCOT Center as a World Dancer and as a Kid of the Kingdom at the Magic Kingdom. He has performed in the US and abroad. His choreography credits include The King and I and Hairspray with Signature Productions, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory with PSFX Productions, Rodger's and Hammerstein's Cinderella, The Wedding Singer, The Sound of Music, and You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown at Palo Verde High School, Urinetown at West Tech and Career High School, How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying at Coronado High School, and Leader of the Pack with Super Sumer Theater. Both Hairspray and Leader of the Pack were nominated for best Off-Strip Show by Broadway World Las Vegas. His choreography was also featured in the Cirque du Soleil/Nevada Ballet Choreographer's Showcase. He was dance coach for Cirque du Soleil's Love at the Mirage and has taught at the Nevada Ballet Academy. Not included are the numerous commercial, industrial, and touring shows he has performed with various production companies including Elton John, Charo, CHAZZAM, Chicago Tourists Bureau, Amtrak, Met Life, and Wynn Resorts just to name a few.



Keriann Parkes

Keriann Parkes has a strong background in Musical Theatre performance and production. Keriann Parkes has been working as an Early Childhood Edu-tainer since 2007, bringing magical classes & events to San Diego, Salt Lake City, Seattle and Las Vegas through Gymboree Play & Music. She started Miss Keri, LLC, in 2012, which brought to life such characters as "Keri the Fairy" from the page to the stage. Keriann currently performs her one woman show all over Las Vegas, encouraging children (and adult children) of all ages to Celebrate Diversity and use the Power of Words for the good of all human and fairykind! Keriann enjoys the variety of all creative expression as a model, both print and runway. She donned her first cover this February 2017 issue of David Magazine in a wedding dress made of balloons, and stormed the runway in September 2017 for Circus Couture's "Prysm". Keriann can now be found bringing magic to local elementary school assemblies, as well as pediatric medical centers throughout the Greater Las Vegas area... and beyond!



Ann-Marie Pereth

Ann-Marie Pereth Ann Marie Pereth is a theater director and choreographer and has worked with the Utah Shakespeare Festival, Pacific Conservatory of the Performing Arts, and American Girl in New York City. Ann Marie acts as Guest Director for Rainbow Company Youth Theatre shows, such as Charlotte's Web, Cheaper by the Dozen, and The Odyssey. Her recent directing credits include: Jewish Repertory Theater of Nevada's The Diary of Anne Frank, Nevada Conservatory Theatre's Rabbit Hole, and Glory in the Flower. Ann Marie is also Resident Acting Coach for JRS Media and works as an adjunct theater professor for the College of Southern Nevada. She received her Masters of Fine Arts in Directing from the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Ann Marie is the Co-Founder and Artistic Director of A Public Fit Theatre Company.



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Stig Zeiner

Stig Zeiner is an award winning RADA MA Alumni with 16 years of professional experience in theatre. Ranging from professional dancer at the National Ballet to Headliner at The National Theatre. His experience includes working internationally with physical theatre groups specializing in Grotowski, Artaud and Mime work, as well as TV, commercial, motion capture, audiobook readings and Feature Films.



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